

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/674,128	RIDGE, ROBERT A.	
	Examiner Robert J. Popovics	Art Unit 1724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the Terminal Disclaimer filed on 6/22/04.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-19.
3.  The drawings filed on 29 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 9/29/03
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Roger Chauza on June 22, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-6 were canceled.

**Claim 7 (currently amended):** Paraffin A paraffin filter apparatus, comprising: a paraffin filter including a first end cap formed of a plastic material, said first end cap having a tubular inlet with a bore therethrough, and a disk-like body with a peripheral edge and an interface surface, said disk-like body having a first opening that opens into the bore of said tubular inlet, said disk-like body having a second opening larger than said first opening, and said second opening opens into the interface surface;

said paraffin filter further including a second end cap formed of a plastic material, said second end cap having a tubular outlet with a bore therethrough, said second end cap including a disk-like body with a peripheral edge, and an interface surface facing the interface surface of said first end cap, the disk-like body of said second end cap having a first opening that opens into the bore of said tubular outlet, said disk-like body of said second end cap having a second opening larger than the bore of said tubular outlet, and said second opening opens into the interface surface of said second end cap;

a filter medium sandwiched between the interface surfaces of said first and second end caps of said paraffin filter; and

the peripheral edges of said first and second end caps of said paraffin filter bonded together to make unitary the first and second end caps; and

a reservoir of melted paraffin, and a tube connecting the reservoir of melted paraffin to the tubular inlet of said paraffin filter.

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7, further including one or more ridges formed on one of said interface surfaces of said first or second end caps, each said ridge encircling the respective first or second opening, each said ridge functioning to compress said filter medium and prevent passage of melted paraffin around the filter medium.

**Claim 9 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the bond between said first and second end caps comprises a weld formed by ultrasonic means.

**Claim 10 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7, wherein an axial length of the disk-like body of said first end cap is shorter than an axial length of the tubular inlet thereof.

**Claim 11 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 10, wherein an axial length of the disk-like body of said second end cap is shorter than an axial length of the tubular outlet of said second end cap, whereby said paraffin filter comprises a low profile filter.

**Claim 12 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said filter medium includes a layer of a polyester felt material, and said polyester felt material is sandwiched between the interface surfaces of said first and second end caps so that a portion of said polyester felt material becomes compressed.

**Claim 13 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7 12, wherein said filter medium further includes a particulate filter material located on an upstream side of said polyester felt material.

**Claim 14 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 13, further including a particulate filter material on a downstream side of said polyester felt material.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said particulate filter material comprises a spun-bonded polyester layer that is precompressed to form a rigid wafer before being installed in said paraffin filter.

**Claim 16 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter medium apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said paraffin filter is constructed with a circular peripheral edge.

**Claim 17 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 16, wherein a diameter of said circular peripheral edge is about 47 mm.

**Claim 18 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said tubular inlet is adapted for a friction fit thereto of a pliable tubing.

**Claim 19 (currently amended):** The paraffin filter apparatus of Claim 7, further including in combination a suction pump connected to the tubular outlet of said paraffin filter for drawing melted paraffin through said paraffin filter.

**Claim 20 (canceled)**

#### **Examiner Interview Summary**

The Examiner contacted Mr. Roger Chauza by telephone on June 17, 2004 to propose incorporation of the limitations of claim 20 into claim 7, canceling claims 1-6 and 20, and the filing of a terminal disclaimer, in order to put the case in condition for allowance. Mr. Chauza agreed to the Examiner's proposal on June 18, 2004. The above Examiner's Amendment reflects all of the agreed upon amendments to the claims. Applicant is not required to provide a record of the substance of the interview.

#### ***Terminal Disclaimer***

The terminal disclaimer filed on June 22, 2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent no. 6,627,072 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

**Reason for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination recited in claim 7. Absent the impermissible use of Applicant's specification as a blueprint to arrive at the combination claimed, there is no motivation to combine the specific filter structure claimed with a reservoir of melted paraffin and a tube connecting the reservoir of melted paraffin to the tubular inlet of said paraffin filter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert J. Popovics whose telephone number is (571) 272-1164. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (571) 272-1156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Art Unit: 1724

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert James Popovics  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1724

June 25, 2004